

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BILBAO 00094 031204Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06 L-03

XMB-04 OPIC-06 TRSE-00 /064 W

----- 114244

R 031045Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL BILBAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 549

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL BARCELONA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS BILBAO 0094

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, EIND, SP

SUBJECT: SHIPBUILDING

1. THE BILBAO FIRM ASTILLEROS ESPANOLES, THE LARGEST SHIPBUILDING ENTERPRISE IN WESTERN EUROPE, HAS ANNOUNCED THE SIGNING OF A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN STEEL WORKS. UNDER THE AGREEMENT JAPAN STEEL WORKS WILL ASSIST ASTILLEROS TO CONVERT ITS NEWEST MANUFACTURING FACILITY TO PRODUCTION OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY FORGED STEEL FOR USE IN NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND PETROCHEMICAL CONSTRUCTION AND HEAVY SPECIALTY STEEL PLATE FOR SIMILAR USES.

2. THE AGREEMENT IS A MOST TIMELY GAIN FOR ASTILLEROS. EXPERTS ESTIMATE THAT THERE IS A 30 PERCENT EXCESS SHIPBUILDING CAPACITY WORLDWIDE. MOST SPANISH SHIPBUILDERS HAVE ORDERS TO KEEP THEM BUSY THROUGH LATE 1977.

HOWEVER, BEYOND THAT DATE THE PICTURE IS RATHER BLEAK. CHANGING OVER A MAJOR FACILITY TO PRODUCTION FOR A FAST GROWING MARKET

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PAGE 02 BILBAO 00094 031204Z

WILL CERTAINLY HELP ASTILLEROS ABSORBP THE ANTICIPATED SLACK

IN SHIPBUILDING.
BEFFEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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